

Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program

What is the Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program?

The Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program (KEMTP) is a statewide online diagnostic test administered by Northern Kentucky University with online capacity through the University of Kentucky. It provides Kentucky students in grades 10 and 11 an assessment of their mathematical preparation for college early enough so that they can improve their mathematical skills while still in high school and avoid placement into remedial courses in college. This will increase their chances of success in college-level mathematics and science courses. KEMTP is nationally recognized, and other states are using its test structure, content, and online features as models.

How many Kentucky students are served by KEMTP?

The program began testing in the spring of 2001 and has been testing every semester since. In 2004-05, 8,344 students from 66 high schools in 37 counties participated. Program directors work with statewide programs such as GEAR UP Kentucky to expand its use in low-income schools. They also are working with Kentucky Adult Education to increase readiness for college-level mathematics among adult learners. Approximately one-third of first-time students entering Kentucky's postsecondary institutions require remedial coursework in mathematics, and KEMTP is designed to reduce this rate.

How does the program work?

Students take the test (25 questions) individually, or teachers can administer it to their classes. Feedback comes in the form of a letter delivered online immediately after test results are submitted if the test is taken online, or in hard copy form if the test is taken on paper. Based on their score, students receive feedback indicating their likely readiness for college mathematics or the likelihood that they will need one, two, or more remedial courses in college. They also are informed of the mathematical topic addressed by each question and whether they answered the question correctly. This diagnostic aspect of the test helps students determine their mathematical strengths and weaknesses.

What is the Council's request?

The Council on Postsecondary Education seeks \$100,000 of recurring funds in 2006-07 to continue this program. Since its inception in 2001, funding for KEMTP has been cut from \$200,000 to \$0.

Why is the additional funding needed?

Without continued funding, KEMTP will not be able to continue to operate and expand through direct outreach to schools.

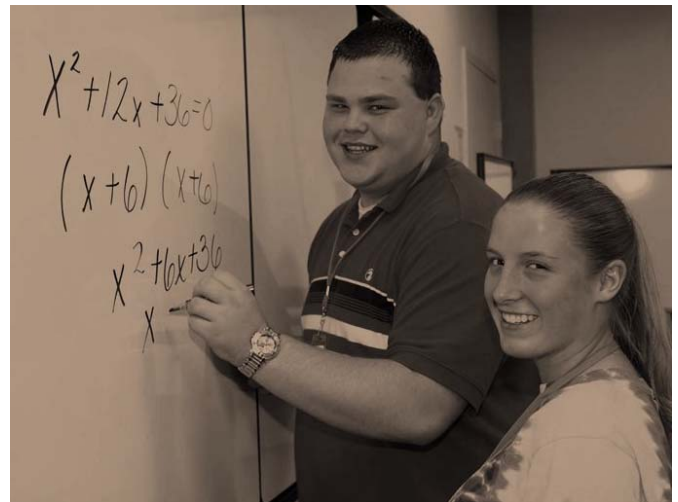


Photo source: GEAR UP Kentucky

One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People